



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,230	12/31/2003	Duane G. Krzysik	KKC 4983 (K-C 19,380)	6635
321	7590	12/05/2006	EXAMINER	
SENNIGER POWERS ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE 16TH FLOOR ST LOUIS, MO 63102			DELCOTTO, GREGORY R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1751	

DATE MAILED: 12/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,230

Applicant(s)

KRZYSIK ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory R. Del Cotto

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-20 and 22-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 51-65 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,6-18,22-35 and 38-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,19,20,36 and 37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/27/06.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 1751

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-4, 6-20, and 22-65 are pending. Claims 5 and 21 have been canceled.

Applicant's arguments filed 10/16/06 have been entered.

### **Objections/Rejections Withdrawn**

The following objections/rejections set forth in the Office action mailed 8/23/06 have been withdrawn:

None.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting

Art Unit: 1751

directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 1751

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 17, 18, 22-27, 33-35, 38-43, 49, and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeClercq et al (US 2002/0128170).

DeClercq et al teach a liquid rinse-added fabric care composition that is characterized by at least two visually distinct phases when the composition is at rest and wherein at least one of the phases contains a fabric care agent. The fabric care agents present in one or more phases of the composition may include fabric softener actives, color care agents, perfumes, antibacterial agents, etc. The composition optionally may contain an electrolyte, phase stabilizer, a phase separation inducing polymer and/or solvent. See Abstract. Visually distinct phases in the composition may have different colors, hues, intensities, etc. See para. 22. The temporary mixture formed after shaking should have a viscosity of less than about 10 Pa.sec, but preferably less than about 5 Pa.sec. See para. 31. Electrolytes may be present in the composition in amounts from 0.05% to 15% by weight and the addition of the electrolyte may lead to the formation of an aqueous bottom layer, while the top layer will consist of a clear/translucent formulation containing the fabric conditioning active. See para. 346. Suitable electrolytes include sodium chloride, sodium tripolyphosphate, etc. See paras. 346-348. Suitable phase modifiers are included in amounts up to 15% by weight of the composition and include selected surface active materials nonionic surfactants derived from saturated and/or unsaturated primary, secondary, and/or branched amine, amide, amine-oxide fatty alcohol, etc., each preferably having from about 6 to about 22 carbon atoms and less than or equal to 50 moles of ethylene oxide; alkoxyated cationic surfactants, etc. See paras. 352-374. Additionally surfactant complexes containing

Art Unit: 1751

mixtures of Armeen APA-10 and Calcium xylene sulfonate, Armeen APA-10 and calcium xylene sulfonate, Armeen APA-10 and magnesium chloride, lauryl carboxylate and triethanolamine, linear alkyl benzene sulfonate and C5-dimethyl amine, or alkyl ethoxylated sulfate and tetrakis N,N,N',N' (2-hydroxypropyl)ethylenediamine. See paras. 377-380. Note that, the Examiner assert that about 15% of a surfactant (phase modifier) would overlap with the amount of surfactant as recited by the instant claims.

Specifically, DeClercq et al teach that the compositions may contain one or more dyes for the purpose of rendering the separate phases visually distinct. In addition, it is envisioned that certain colors will be associated with certain fabric care benefits. See para. 335.

DeClercq et al do not teach, with sufficient specificity, a liquid color changing product comprising a first and second lamellar structured liquid, each containing a surfactant, electrolyte, coloring agent, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to formulate a liquid color changing product comprising a first and second lamellar structured liquid, each containing a surfactant, electrolyte, coloring agent, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims, with a reasonable expectation of success and similar results with respect to other disclosed components, because DeClercq et al suggest a liquid color changing product comprising a first and second lamellar structured liquid,

Art Unit: 1751

each containing a surfactant, electrolyte, coloring agent, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims.

Claims 12, 28, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeClercq et al (US 2002/0128170) as applied to claims 1, 2, 6-11, 17, 18, 22-27, 33-35, 38-43, 49, and 50 above, and further in view of Hsu et al (US 2003/0139316).

DeClercq et al are relied upon as set forth above. However, DeClercq et al do not teach the specific dyes in addition to the other requisite components of the composition as recited by the instant claims.

Hsu teaches a liquid detergent composition comprising at least two layers, with a surfactant, a transition metal inorganic electrolyte, water, and optionally other ingredients distributed within the layers. In the inventive compositions, at least one of the layers is colored. Preferred compositions are transparent and are packaged within a transparent container. See Abstract. Suitable colorant agents include dyes such as Red 33, Violet 2, Green 8, etc.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use a dye such as Red 33, Violet 2, Green 8, etc., in the cleaning composition taught by DeClercq et al, with a reasonable expectation of success, because Hsu et al teach the use of dyes such as Red 33, Violet 2, Green 8, etc., in a similar detergent composition and further DeClercq et al teach the use of dyes in general.

Art Unit: 1751

Claims 13-16, 29-32, and 45-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeClercq et al (US 2002/0128170) as applied to claims 1, 2, 6-11, 17, 18, 22-27, 33-35, 38-43, 49, and 50 above, and further in view of Zhu et al (US 2003/0203830) and Wei et al (US 2004/0248748).

DeClercq et al are relied upon as set forth above. However, DeClercq et al do not teach the use of pigments coloring agents such as mica or titanium dioxide in addition to the other requisite components of the composition as recited by the instant claims.

Zhu et al teach an aqueous liquid laundry detergent composition containing a detergent surfactant, an emulsifier with an HLB value below about 8.5, and oil, and an electrolyte in an amount to provide ionic strength indicator of from about 0.55 to about 6.7. The composition separates, upon standing for at most 24 hours at ambient temperature, into at least two layers, one of which is an emulsion with a continuous aqueous phase while the second layer is preferably a transparent composition. See Abstract. Colorants can be used to color the transparent layer and include dye or pigment. See paras. 86 and 87.

Wei et al teach person cleansing compositions comprising a cleansing phase containing a surfactant and water, and a separate benefit phase comprising at least one water in oil emulsion, wherein the cleaning and benefit phases are packaged together and are in physical contact. See Abstract. Suitable colorants include pigments, pearlescent agents such as mica and titanium dioxide, lakes, colorings, etc. See para. 98.

Art Unit: 1751

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use a pigment or coloring agents including mica and titanium dioxide as the coloring agent in the compositions taught by DeClercq et al, with a reasonable expectation of success, because Zhu et al teach the use of pigments as a coloring agent in a similar detergent composition and Wei et al teach the use of pigments, lakes, mica and titanium dioxide as coloring agents in a similar detergent composition and further, DeClercq et al teach the use of coloring agents in general which would encompass pigments, lakes, and other coloring agents.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 3, 4, 19, 20, 36, and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a composition in which the first and second compositions have the specific viscosity or specific surfactants as recited by the instant claims.

Claims 51-65 are allowed.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a liquid color changing cleansing product comprising a first and second lamellar structured liquid containing surfactant, electrolyte, 2 different coloring agents, and the other requisite components of the composition in the specific amounts as recited by the instant claims.

***Response to Arguments***

Art Unit: 1751.

Note that, upon further consideration, the Examiner has made a new ground of rejection as set forth above.

***Conclusion***

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Remaining references cited but not relied upon are considered to be cumulative to or less pertinent than those relied upon or discussed above.


Applicant is reminded that any evidence to be presented in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131 or 1.132 should be submitted before final rejection in order to be considered timely.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1312. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas McGinty can be reached on (571) 272-1029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1751

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Gregory R. Del Cotto  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1751

GRD  
November 30, 2006